



## Humanity

*written by Christi Aycock*

Humanity is defined as compassionate, sympathetic, or generous behavior or disposition. In today's world we need to demonstrate humanity to all the people we interact with. We are living in a world of large uncertainty, where biases are prevailing. As Nebraskans we are very fortunate and we all have so much to be thankful for.

One of the best ways to demonstrate humanity is by building trustworthy relationships with those we interact with. Within NE Extension, we interact with neighbors, parents, teachers, farmers/ranchers, business owners, and politicians, just to name a few. As Extension Board members we have the ability to connect the research based information with people who are searching for those answers. One way is by having the ability to connect youth with a 4-H program so they can grow and become leaders. Another is we can introduce small business owners with people in the state, who are similar to them, to enable them to grow and learn from one another. Also we can help farmers/ranchers gain knowledge to help their crops and livestock flourish and be successful.

As Extension Board members, we have the ability to grow relationships with so many people in our communities as well as with NACEB members across the state. By working together we can ensure that things we value and believe in continue to be strong and passed down to the youth of our great state. In a time of uncertainty, it is so important that we stand together and work to make the bad times not overwhelming and crushing. We need to demonstrate empathy to those around us, actively listening to their pains and concerns and letting them know we are there to help in anyway we can. Simply connecting a struggling person with an Extension Educator, in any area, can be the simple act that can change that person's future.

We are so fortunate to be in the position we are as Extension Board members. Individually we may not have all of the answers and show that humility is ok! That is why we can network with other members and build those relationships so we can help each other help others. We all have our stories and reasons for serving and we can share our experiences to benefit others.

So, I encourage you and challenge you to look around in your daily interactions with people to see where you can show humanity and how you can connect NE Extension with those around you. What actions can you take to ensure the future of NE continues to be bright and promising, even through the uncertainty?



**Director:** Amanda Mogensen

**Current Role:** President – Elect

Amanda has served on the Boone-Nance County Extension Board since January 2017 and began her role as a NACEB director in February 2018. Amanda and her husband Morgan currently reside in Boone County, where they operate a cow-calf & row crop operation. Amanda is also an employee at Cedar Rapids State Bank. When she is not working, she loves to volunteer her time with organizations throughout Boone County and travel around the United States.

**My Extension Story:**

My extension story starts as an eight-year-old 4-H'er riding a pig into the show arena at my first County Fair...may not have been planned, but it was an exciting start! Extension has played a vital role in every stage of my life. As a 4-H Club member, I had the opportunity to learn the importance of teamwork, leadership and dedication, along with understanding the leadership roles within the Club. That core knowledge has been a huge part of my success, as I have had the opportunity to serve in leadership roles on numerous Boards. Nebraska Extension provided me an avenue to apply my skills and grow; helping me graduate college, begin my career and transition after moving. The connection Nebraska Extension has throughout the state is astounding. When moving away from my hometown, I was dreading not being able to serve my community and county like I had before. Little did I know, the Extension educator I spent the last 11+ years with, wouldn't miss a beat when it came to introducing me to the local Extension educators and staff. I was not only able to continue to serve, but even grow as a leader – having the opportunity to share my Extension story at the county, state and national levels. My goal is to reassure that future generations have the same opportunities through Nebraska Extension as I did, so they can serve as our future leaders in Nebraska and beyond.

